

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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AMEMBASSY TELAVIV PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T GENEVA 0057

EXDIS

FROM STERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING  
GROUP MEETING NO. 4

1. FOURTH MEETING OF MILITARY WORKING GROUP, WHICH LASTED FOR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO HOURS TODAY, MADE ENCOURAGING ADVANCE OVER PREVIOUS SESSIONS. GENERAL SIILASVUO, IN BRIEFING ME TONIGHT, WAS VISIBLY PLEASED. WHILE STILL TALKING TO LARGE EXTENT IN GENERALITIES, GUR PRESENTED TWO "MODELS" OF POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT PLANS THAT WERE SPECIFIC IN SOME RESPECTS, INCLUDING DISTANCES IN TERMS OF ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE. FIRST OF THESE IS NON-STARTER WHICH BOTH ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS KNOW, BUT SECOND RESEMBLES COUNTERPROPOSAL YARIV PUT FORWARD TO GAMASY ON NOVEMBER 22, AND EVEN IN ONE RESPECT IS IMPROVEMENT OVER IT. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS STILL COMPLAINED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT PUT FORWARD "PROPOSAL," GUR'S MOVE SEEMS TO HAVE LOOSENED LOG JAM IN DIALOGUE TO SOME EXTENT.

2. MEETING GOT UNDER WAY WITH LONG PREPARED STATEMENT BY COLONEL SION WHICH RECAPITULATED ISRAELI POSITIONS AND PRINCIPLES SET FORTH THUS FAR AT CONFERENCE. SIILASVUO SAID HE THOUGHT THIS

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PRESENTATION WAS MAINLY FOR RECORD AND DID NOT APPEAR TO

HIM TO CONTAIN ANYTHING NEW.

3. GENERAL GUR THEN TOOK OVER AND PRESENTED TWO "MODELS" OF POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT PLANS. HE STEPPED TO BLACKBOARD (BUT NOT MAP) TO MAKE ROUGHT DIAGRAMS OF THESE. MODEL NO. 1 TURNED OUT TO BE PREFERRED ISRAELI PLAN WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN OUTLINED PUBLICLY BY PRIME MINISTER MEIR. UNDER THIS, BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES WOULD BE WITHDRAWN TO FOLLOWING LINES: CANAL WOULD BE DIVIDING LINE WITH UN ZONE OF 25- KILOMETER-WIDTH STRADDLING CANAL (12 KILOMETERS ON EACH SIDE ON CANAL). IMMEDIATELY TO EAST AND WEST OF THIS WOULD BE 10-KILOMETER-WIDE "SECURITY ZONES" (LIGHTLY ARMED FORCES) HELD BY ISRAEL TO EAST AND EGYPT TO WEST, BEYOND WHICH MAIN FORCES OF EACH SIDE WOULD BE POSITIONED.

4. SIILASVUO SAID EGYPTIANS DISMISSED THIS AS NON-STARTER AND GUR QUICKLY MOVED ON TO "MODEL NO. 2." SIILASVUO TERMED THIS A "MODIFIED GAMASY PLAN" REFERRING TO LAST EGYPTIAN PLAN PUT FORWARD IN KILOMETER 101 TALKS ON NOVEMBER 22/23. MAIN EGYPTIAN FORCE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN TO WEST BANK OF CANAL AND MAIN ISRAELI FORCE TO LINE 35 KILOMETERS EAST OF CANAL. ON EAST BANK OF CANAL THERE WOULD BE -01KILOMETER-WIDE EGYPTIAN SECURITY ZONE IN WHICH ONLY LIGHTLY ARMED EGYPTIAN FORCES WOULD BE PRESENT; MOVING EAST FROM THAT THERE WOULD BE: (A) 15 KILOMETER UN ZONE; (B) 10 KILOMETER ISRAELI SECURITY ZONE (SAME NUMBER OF TROOPS AND LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS AS EGYPTIAN SECURITY ZONE; (C) ISRAELI MAIN FORCE.

5. GUR THEN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER MODEL NO. 2, ARTILLERY ON BOTH SIDES WOULD HAVE TO BE PLACED FAR ENOUGH BACK BEHIND MAIN-FORCE LINES SO AS TO BE OUT OF RANGE OF UNEF ZONE. HE SAID SAME WOULD APPLY TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT COVERAGE; VIZ. SAM AND AAA POSTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SO PLACED THAT EFFECTIVE RANGE OF THESE WEAPONS WOULD NOT EXTEND OVER UN-HELD ZONE. EXPLAINING THIS, GUR SAID PURPOSE WAS TO ENABLE THESE WEAPONS TO BE USED FOR DEFENSE BUT NOT OFFENSE. HE SAID THAT IN LIGHTLY ARMED SECURITY ZONES, THERE SHOULD BE NO TANKS AND NO ARTILLERY PIECES.

6. MAGDOUB SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN LATTER MODEL BUT ASKED WHY ISRAELIS WERE GOING THROUGH RIGMAROLE OF PRESENTING "MODELS" AND NOT CONCRETE PROPOSALS. GUR REPLIED THAT ISRAELI COULD

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NOT TABLE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL UNTIL SOME MEASURE OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THESE CONCEPTS. MAGDOUB SAID IN TURN THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON BASIS OF "MODELS" BUT IF PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED WITH SPECIFIC DISENGAGEMENT LINES HE WAS SURE BOTH SIDES COULD COME TO AGREEMENT ON THESE "DETAILS."

7. SIILASVUO THEN SAID THAT THERE WERE OTHER POINTS

THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED IN MEANTIME AS WELL; FOR EXAMPLE, TIMETABLE BY WHICH SUCCESSIVE WITHDRAWALS TO FINAL DISENGAGEMENT LINE WOULD TAKE PLACE. ISRAELIS PROMISED TO PREPARE SUCH A TIMETABLE FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING.

8. SIILASVUO NOTED THAT GUR'S PRESENTATION HAD COVERED PROBLEM OF SAM'S AND ARTILLERY, BUT WHAT ABOUT LIMITATIONS ON AIR ACTIVITY? GUR REPLIED THERE MIGHT BE TWO APPROACHES: (1) THAT NO AIRCRAFT (OTHER THAN UNEF) BE ALLOWED TO FLY BEYOND MAIN-FORCE LINES OR (2) EACH SIDE MIGHT AGREE TO ALLOW RECONNAISSANCE OVERFLIGHTS. QUESTION OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT HELICOPTERS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BEFORE MEETING CLOSED.

9. IT WAS PROVISIONALLY AGREED THAT NEXT MEETING WOULD BE JANUARY 7 AT 0900. HOWEVER, ISRAELIS RAISED POSSIBILITY THEY MIGHT BE RECALLED TO JERUSALEM AT BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN MEETING WOULD BE POSTPONED TO LATER DATE.

10. COMMENT. ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO PUT FORWARD "MODEL" THAT HAS SAME BASIC OVERALL SHAPE AS YARIV COUNTERPROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 22 IS ENCOURAGING AND SHOULD HELP TO UNDERMINE GROWING EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS THAT ISRAELIS HAD COMPLETELY BACKED OFF FROM KILO-METER 101 POSITIONS. BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUR'S MODEL AND YARIV NOVEMBER 22 PROPOSAL IS THAT WHILE YARIV SPOKE OF LEAVING 2ND AND 3RD EGYPTIAN ARMIES IN PLACE, GUR IS IN EFFECT PROPOSING WITHDRAWAL OF THESE FORCES TO WEST OF CANAL, LEAVING ONLY LIGHTLY ARMED FORCES BEHIND. THIS IS OF COURSE BIG DIFFERENCE AND IT WILL NOT MAKE EGYPTIANS HAPPY, BUT IT IS NOT BAD FOR OPENERS IF THIS IN FACT BECOMES ISRAELI PROPOSAL. LOGICAL MIDDLE GROUND WOULD APPEAR TO BE LEAVING 2ND AND 3RD ARMIES IN POSITION BUT WITH SOME-THINNING OUT," PARTICULARLY OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY. THIS WOULD REQUIRE  
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COMPRESSION IN TERMS OF DISTANCES IN INTERVENING ZONES, IF "SECURITY ZONE" CONCEPT IS TO BE MAINTAINED, AND IF ISRAELI MAIN FORCE IS NOT TO BE MORE THAN 35 KILOMETERS BACK FROM CANAL. GUR MODEL IS IMPROVEMENT OVER YARIV PREDECESSOR IN ONE RESPECT: IT DROPS COMPLICATED AND PROBABLY UNACCEPTABLE DEVICE OF PLACING UN ZONE BETWEEN ISRAELI SECURITY ZONE AND ISRAELI MAIN FORCE.

1. SIILASVUO COMMENTED THAT GUR MODEL WOULD POSE SIGNIFICANT OPERATING DIFFICULTIES FOR UNEF IN THAT, WITH PARTICULAR DISTANCES SPECIFIED, IT WOULD LEAVE NO NORTH-SOUTH ROAD IN UN ZONE. BASSIN

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